

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. REACTION OF LANGUR, *PRESBYTIS ENTELLUS* TO A SNAKE

In Jodhpur, Western Rajasthan, there are no large predator of the Hanuman Langur, *Presbytis entellus entellus* Dufresne. It is of interest to record that snakes produce a panic reaction in Langurs. No case of such reaction appears to have been reported so far.

On the afternoon of the 23rd November, 1975, during routine behavioural observations at Vidhyasal, Jodhpur, I suddenly noticed that some adult females, juvenile and older infants of a group were standing in a circle screeching and looking intently at the ground. On investigation, I saw that they were peering at a foot long, moderately thick snake. As the snake moved slowly the langurs peered, shuffled and screeched loudly, and adult females sometimes ground-slapped. The younger infants also peered at the snake but did not screech. None of the langur, went close to the snake or touched it. Other members of the group, including the leader, came and looked at the snake for a moment and went away. The leader and three other adult males did

not screech. After about eight minutes, I killed the snake while the langurs looked on silently. They remained there until the snake died and was motionless; and then went away one by one.

Other langurs, not present during the killing also came one by one, looked at the dead snake, and went away.

Next day I took the dead snake to the same ground, tied with a thread and threw some groundnuts around it. The langurs came and started eating the nuts, but as soon as they detected the snake, they stopped feeding, retreated at once and screeched. When I moved the snake by pulling the thread, the screeching became louder. After a time, the langurs circumspectly took the nuts lying about a foot from the snake. The leader male did not screech as before but avoided approaching the snake.

The experiment was repeated on two other bisexual-single male groups, and in all cases, the reactions were as stated above.

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2. BIRTH AND GROWTH OF COMMON PALM CIVET (*PARADOXURUS HERMAPHRODITUS*) IN CAPTIVITY

A pair of Common Palm Civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) are housed in an enclosure measuring 4.1 x 3.4 x 1.7 m at the Nandankanan, Biological Park, Orissa. Two

wooden sleeping boxes measuring 0.6 x 0.3 x 0.2 m have been provided. They are fed with minced meat, fish, snail flesh, banana, milk and boiled rice.

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The female of this pair gave birth to three young (one female and two males) in one litter on 30.4.1975. The young were fully furred and were able to produce a kind of feeble noise when handled within a few hours after birth. Their eyes were closed at birth and opened on the 8th day (male), 10th day (female) and 11th day (male). At birth, the three young weighed 92 to 98 grammes and measured 28.5 to 30.5 cm from tip to tip including tail lengths of 12 to 13 cm. The mother weighed 2.975 kg and the male weighed 3.985 kg on 1.5.1975. Weekly growth records of the three young were maintained up-

to the age of 11 months and an abstract of the same is given below:

At the age of 11 months the three young apparently looked as large as the present.

Acharjyo & Tripathy (1974) have given the weight at birth of three males as 69 to 102 gm and length from tip to tip as 28 to 30 cm including tail lengths of 11 to 13 cm. They further stated that one young male weighed 995 gm. at the age of 3 months. The young of this species open their eyes in six to ten days (Acharjyo & Misra 1973). The age at which the civets become fully adult is not known (Prater 1971).

Date	Age in weeks	Weight in Kg.		
		Female	Male	Male
30.iv.1975	At birth	0.098	0.092	0.093
14.v.1975	2	0.227	0.244	0.248
28.v.1975	4	0.390	0.417	0.400
11.vi.1975	6	0.475	0.520	0.510
25.vi.1975	8	0.725	0.750	0.725
9.vii.1975	10	0.865	0.880	0.895
23.vii.1975	12	1.008	0.970	1.020
6.viii.1975	14	1.198	1.067	1.187
20.viii.1975	16	1.240	1.120	1.280
3.ix.1975	18	1.225	1.000	1.260
17.ix.1975	20	1.465	1.235	1.545
1.x.1975	22	1.658	1.430	1.592
15.x.1975	24	1.455	1.480	1.587
29.x.1975	26	1.420	1.680	1.560
12.xi.1975	28	1.480	1.805	1.780
26.xi.1975	30	1.652	1.880	1.970
10.xii.1975	32	1.605	1.800	1.940
24.xii.1975	34	1.880	2.010	2.250
7.i.1976	36	2.005	2.200	2.485
21.i.1976	38	2.190	2.280	2.525
4.ii.1976	40	2.555	2.295	2.550
18.ii.1976	42	2.265	2.285	2.540
3.iii.1976	44	2.265	2.305	2.520
17.iii.1976	46	2.280	2.325	2.560
31.iii.1976	48 (11 months)	2.505	2.380	2.585

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3. OBSERVATIONS ON THE ECOLOGY AND STATUS OF THE
HISPID HARE IN RAJAGARH FOREST, DARRANG DISTRICT,
ASSAM, IN 1975 AND 1976

(With a text-figure)

The Hispid Hare, also called the Assam Rabbit, *Caprolagus hispidus* (Pearson) (Lagomorpha : Leporidae), is more or less of the same body-size as that of the Common Hare. It is, however, distinguished by its coarser, bristly fur, dorsally dark brown in colour due to a mixture of black and brown hairs, ventrally brown up to chest and whitish on the abdomen, ear shorter than the skull and brown outside throughout, tail brown above and below and equal to or slightly shorter than the ear; hindleg short, but slightly longer than the forelegs.

The population of this interesting hare appears to have declined drastically in recent

years. At present it is said to be found along the foot of the Himalayas in a few isolated places from Uttar Pradesh to Assam. Till 1951 it has been recorded only from Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, and a few spots in Goalpara and Darrang Districts in Assam. However, on the basis of the latest report of its capture in Rajagarh Forest Reserve under Baranadi Forest Range, Mangaldai Sub-division, Darrang District, by J. C. Mallinson in 1971 (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 68 : 443-444), I visited the area in June 1975 and January 1976, to study the ecology and status of the Hispid Hare there. The survey was also conducted around Dharamjuli Tea Estate, Dimakushi,